

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 INR-09 PM-09 RSR-01 RSC-01 /053 W
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R 261235 Z MAR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2797

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 0895

NOFORN STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR CG EG

SUBJECT: REPORTED CANCELLATION MOBUTU' S TRIP TO ALGIER

REF: KINSHASA 2305

1. REGARDING HEYKAL' S CONVERSATION WITH MOBUTU IN PEKING, HEYKAL' S OWN ACCOUNT OF IT AS GIVEN MARCH 9 INDICATES THAT BOTH MEN WERE TALKING AT CROSS PURPOSES THROUGHOUT. HEYKAL NOTES EARLY IN THE ARTICLE THAT AT DINNER GIVEN BY CHOU EN LAI FOR MOBUTU THERE SEEMED TO BE AN " OVERSUPPLY" OF TV EQUIPMENT ORDERED BY MOBUTU; HEYKAL SAYS, " I WONDERED WHETHER SUCH LUXURY WAS NOT TOO BIG A BURDEN ON THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY." HEYKAL WAS APPROACHED BY MOBUTU' S PRESS ADVISOR AND THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED. HEYKAL SAYS THAT HIS OPINION OF MOBUTU WAS NOT PLEASING TO THE LATTER. MOREOVER, HE FOUND MOBUTU " ENIGMATIC AND HARD TO UNDERSTAND." HEYKAL SAID HE TRIED TO JUDGE MOBUTU WITHIN CONTEXT OF AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT, BUT NOTED THAT MANY OF SUCH MOVEMENTS' LEADERSHIP HAD TURNED INTO A " NEW, FABULOUSLY RICH CLASS" BY APPROPRIATING PRIVILEGES HELD PREVIOUSLY BY COLONIAL LEADERS. THIS, HEYKAL SAYS, BROUGHT DANGER OF CORRUPTION TO AFRICA.

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2. HEYKAL RECALLS MOBUTU' S REMARKS ABOUT AFRICAN AND ZAIRENE " AUTHENTICITY" (WHICH CANNOT HAVE STRUCK MUCH OF A SYMPATHETIC CHORD WITH HEYKAL). FINAL PART OF ARTICLE INDICATES NO COMMON GROUND AT ALL IN MOBUTU' S EXPLANATION TO HEYKAL OF WHY THERE WERE STILL ISRAELI MILITARY ADVISORS (ONLY 12) IN ZAIRE, AND MOBUTU' S ASSERTION THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT QADHAFI' S INVITATION (TRANSMITTED VIA TOMBALBAYE) TO VISIT LIBYA, SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS VISITING QADHAFI TO RECEIVE AID.
GREENE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: PFOR, CG, EG, n/a
To: AF
ALGIERS
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